

Appln No. 10/675,227
Amdt date February 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated October 19, 2005, 2005, claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1, 2, 11 and 12. Reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested for Claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 16 that are pending in this application.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the use of the phrase "sheet-like."

Applicant has amended claims 11 and 12 as set forth above to remove the phrase "sheet-like." Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection of the Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Key, U.S. Patent No. 4,183,610. Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 are independent claims.

Independent Claims 1 and 2

Amended claims 1 and 2 relate to a press-fit terminal having a press-fit section with a pressure retaining part and an introducing part and an aperture extending in the axial direction of the terminal. Specifically, claim 1 recites, in part: "A press-fit terminal having a press-fit section . . . comprising: a pressure retaining part and an introducing part provided in the press-fit section having an aperture extending in the axial direction of the terminal." Claim 2 recites, in part: "the press-fit terminal includes a press-fit section having a pressure retaining part and an introducing part, which are formed by an aperture extending in the axial direction of the terminal."

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Claims 1 and 2 also recite that "the pressure retaining part generates an elastic force which becomes a holding force when the press-fit section is press-fitted into the through-hole, and when the press-fit section is press-fitting into the through-hole, the introducing part generates an elastic force, the intensity of which is lower than that of the elastic force generated by the pressure retaining part."

The Office action states at page 3 that Key discloses "a pressure retaining part;" and "an introducing part 12," wherein "the pressure retaining part generates an elastic force which becomes a holding force when the pressure retaining part is press-fitted into the through-hole 14, 15," and "the introducing part 12 generates an elastic force, the intensity of which is lower than that of the elastic force generated by the pressure retaining part." Here, the Office action refers to Key at column 3, lines 37 - 39 which states that the "shroud 12 slides over the contact pins in the direction A and is retained by an interference fit with the contact pins 10 and 11."

However, the shroud 12 of Key differs from an introducing part of the press-fit section of the press-fit terminal as claimed in claims 1 and 2 set forth above. Moreover, the press-fit section 18 provided in a contact portion 20 of an electrical connection apparatus described in Key differs from a pressure retaining part and an introducing part of the press-fit terminal as claimed in claims 1 and 2 set forth above. Applicant thus respectfully submits that Key does not disclose a press-fit terminal having a press-fit section with a pressure retaining part and an introducing part as claimed.

The Office action states that Key discloses "the introducing part generates an elastic force, the intensity of which is lower than that of the elastic force generated by the pressure retaining part" at column 3, lines 37 - 39. However, the cited section merely states that the shroud "is retained by an interference fit with the contact pins." No mention is made of intensity of an elastic force as claimed.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Key does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 or claim 2. Claims 3 and 5 - 10 that depend on claim 1 also are patentable over the cited reference for the reasons set forth above. In addition, these dependent claims are patentable over the reference for the additional limitations that these claims contain.

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Independent Claims 11 and 12

Claims 11 and 12 relate to a "wiring board made of a plurality of sheets multiply laminated by resin, having a through-hole into which a press-fit terminal is press-fitted so that it can be held, wherein an elastic material is contained in the resin for combining the sheets." The Examiner states that Key discloses this limitation at column 3, line 25 to column 5, line 63 with particular reference to "wiring board 16," "through-hole 14, 15" and "press-fit terminal 18."

As discussed in detail in Applicant's Amendment dated July 25, 2005, the cited portion of Key only discusses the construction of the terminal 10, 11. Applicant has found no reference to either materials used in or any other construction aspects of a wiring board and no such reference has been made in either of the Office actions issued to date. Moreover, as discussed at length in Applicant's Amendment dated July 25, 2005, the only reference to an elastic material in Key relates to the characteristics of the terminal 10, 11, not to a printed circuit board. Applicant refers the Examiner to the arguments made in the July 25, 2005, Amendment rather than simply repeating them here.

Applicant notes that the Office action did not address Applicant's previous arguments "in view of the new ground(s) of rejection" (presumably the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112). However, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issue did not render moot issues regarding other claim elements that are clearly not disclosed in Key. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that its arguments be addressed or that the rejection of claims 11 and 12 based on Key be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that Key does not teach or suggest the limitations of either claim 11 or claim 12. Claims 13 - 16 that depend on claim 11 also are patentable over the cited reference for the reasons set forth above. In addition, these dependent claims are patentable over the reference for the additional limitations that these claims contain.

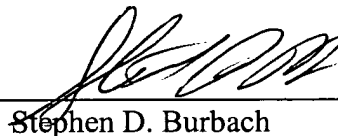
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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the references of record. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By



Stephen D. Burbach
Reg. No. 40,285
626/795-9900

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